

What is claimed is:

1. 1. A therapeutic composition for the elicitation of a systemic, non-antigen specific immune response in a mammal comprising:
  - a. a liposome delivery vehicle; and
  - b. an isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:
    - i. an oligonucleotide containing no CpG motifs; and
    - ii. an isolated nucleic acid vector without a gene insert, or a fragment thereof;

wherein said therapeutic composition elicits a systemic, non-antigen-specific immune response in said mammal.
2. The composition of claim 1, wherein said liposome delivery vehicle comprises lipids selected from the group consisting of multilamellar vesicle lipids and extruded lipids.
3. The composition of claim 1, wherein said liposome delivery vehicle comprises multilamellar vesicle lipids.
4. The composition of claim 1, wherein said liposome delivery vehicle comprises cationic liposomes.
5. The composition of claim 1, wherein said liposome delivery vehicle comprises pairs of lipids selected from the group consisting of DOTMA and cholesterol; DOTAP and cholesterol; DOTIM and cholesterol; and DDAB and cholesterol.
6. The composition of claim 1, wherein said liposome delivery vehicle comprises DOTAP and cholesterol.
7. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
8. The composition of claim 7, wherein said excipient comprises a non-ionic diluent.
9. The composition of claim 7, wherein said excipient is 5 percent dextrose in water.
10. The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition has a nucleic acid to lipid ratio of from about 1:1 to about 1:64.
11. The composition of claim 1, wherein said oligonucleotide is at least 10 base pairs in length.
12. The composition of claim 11, wherein said oligonucleotide is in the range of 10 to 100 base pairs in length.

13. A method for eliciting a systemic, non-antigen specific immune response in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal an amount of a composition effective to elicit said immune response, wherein said composition comprises:
  - a. a liposome delivery vehicle; and
  - b. an isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:
    - i. an oligonucleotide containing no CpG motifs; and
    - ii. an isolated nucleic acid vector without a gene insert or a fragment thereof.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein said liposome delivery vehicle comprises lipids selected from the group consisting of multilamellar vesicle lipids and extruded lipids.
15. The method of claim 13, wherein said liposome delivery vehicle comprises multilamellar vesicle lipids.
16. The method of claim 13, wherein said liposome delivery vehicle comprises cationic liposomes.
17. The method of claim 13, wherein said liposome delivery vehicle comprises pairs of lipids selected from the group consisting of DOTMA and cholesterol; DOTAP and cholesterol; DOTIM and cholesterol; and DDAB and cholesterol.
18. The method of claim 13, wherein said liposome delivery vehicle comprises DOTAP and cholesterol.
19. The method of claim 13, wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein said excipient comprises a non-ionic diluent.
21. The method of claim 21, wherein said excipient is 5 percent dextrose in water.
22. The method of claim 13, wherein said composition has a nucleic acid to lipid ratio of from about 1:1 to about 1:64.